

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

***STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION***

***Carol A. Murray, Commissioner***

**For Immediate Release**

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**NEW HAMPSHIRE FARES WELL IN NATIONAL PEDESTRIAN STUDY**  
**FOURTH LOWEST FATALITY RATE IN ANNUAL RANKING**

A new national research report has found that New Hampshire had the fourth lowest pedestrian fatality rate in the country for the year 2001, trailing only North Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska. The states with the 10 lowest pedestrian fatality rates per 100,000 population were:

- \* No. 1: North Dakota: Rate 0.47 (fatalities 3)
- \* No. 2: Iowa: Rate 0.65 (fatalities 19)
- \* No. 3: Nebraska: Rate 0.70 (fatalities 12)
- \* No. 4: New Hampshire: Rate 0.71 (fatalities 9)
- \* No. 5: Vermont: Rate 0.82 (fatalities 5)

The top three states with the highest fatality rates were (1) New Mexico (Rate 3.94); (2) Arizona (Rate 3.0); and Florida (Rate 2.98).

The most recent analysis of pedestrian fatalities by the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) finds that young children and senior citizens are the most likely to be victims of fatal crashes involving pedestrians. Among the report's key findings about pedestrian deaths:

- \* 18 percent involve hit-and-run crashes.
- \* 78 percent occur at non-intersections.
- \* 44 percent occur on roadways without crosswalks.
- \* 64 percent occur on urban roadways.
- \* 63 percent of pedestrians killed are male.
- \* 18 percent of all pedestrian fatalities occur between midnight and 6 a.m.
- \* 46 percent of all pedestrian fatalities occur between 6 p.m. and midnight.

Also in 2001, the New Hampshire Department of Transportation received a patent for a new highly visible and durable crosswalk sign that was designed to respond to the need for more consistent signing for pedestrians across New Hampshire. The unique "rebound hinge" sign was initially unveiled at the NHDOT's first annual Pedestrian and Bicycle Conference in May 1999.

- 30 -

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